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(71) Applicant

Homark Associates Limited

(Incorporated in the United Kingdom)

**Pottery Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 8RB,
United Kingdom**

(72) Inventors

Eric Dryden

Ernest John Tily

Shaun White

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

Barker, Brettell & Boutland

**Prudential Buildings, 97-101 Above Bar Street,
Southampton, SO9 4GT, United Kingdom**

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(56) Documents cited

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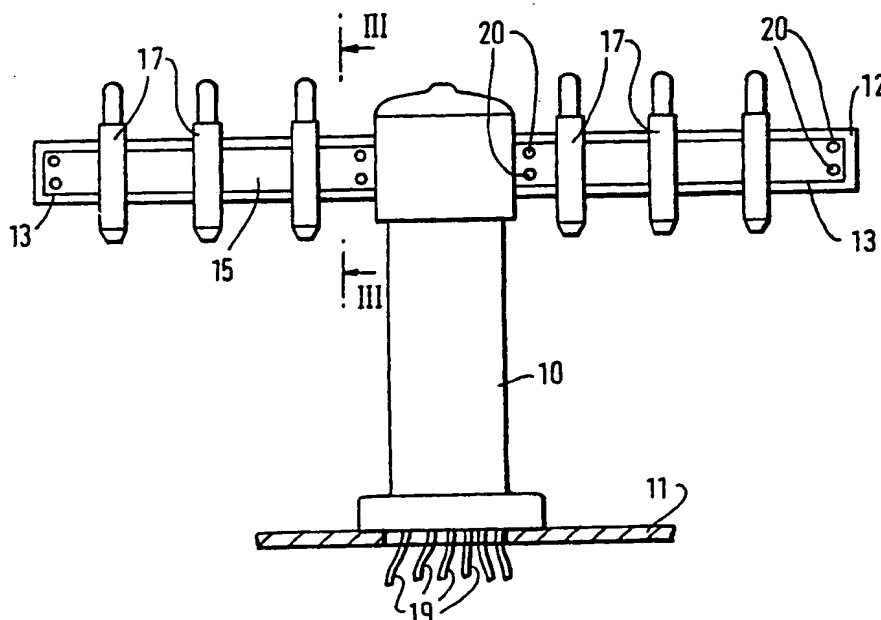
(58) Field of search

**UK CL (Edition K) B8N NAB NB ND
INT CL⁵ B67D**

(54) **Beverage dispensing font with detachable tap mounting unit**

(57) A font has dispensing taps (17) mounted on channel-section members (13) which are detachably secured by screws (20) to the rear of tubular arms (12) carried by a hollow column (10). The channel-section members (13) can be detached from the arms to gain access to the supply tubes connected to the taps. The tubes are routed in the illustrated construction through respective elongate apertures (18) (Fig. 3) provided in the arms, along the interior of the arms, and down into the column. In an alternative construction the arms are solid and the tubes extend along within the cavity of the channel-section members (13) before passing into the column through an aperture in the column which leads from the cavity.

FIG.1



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FIG. 1

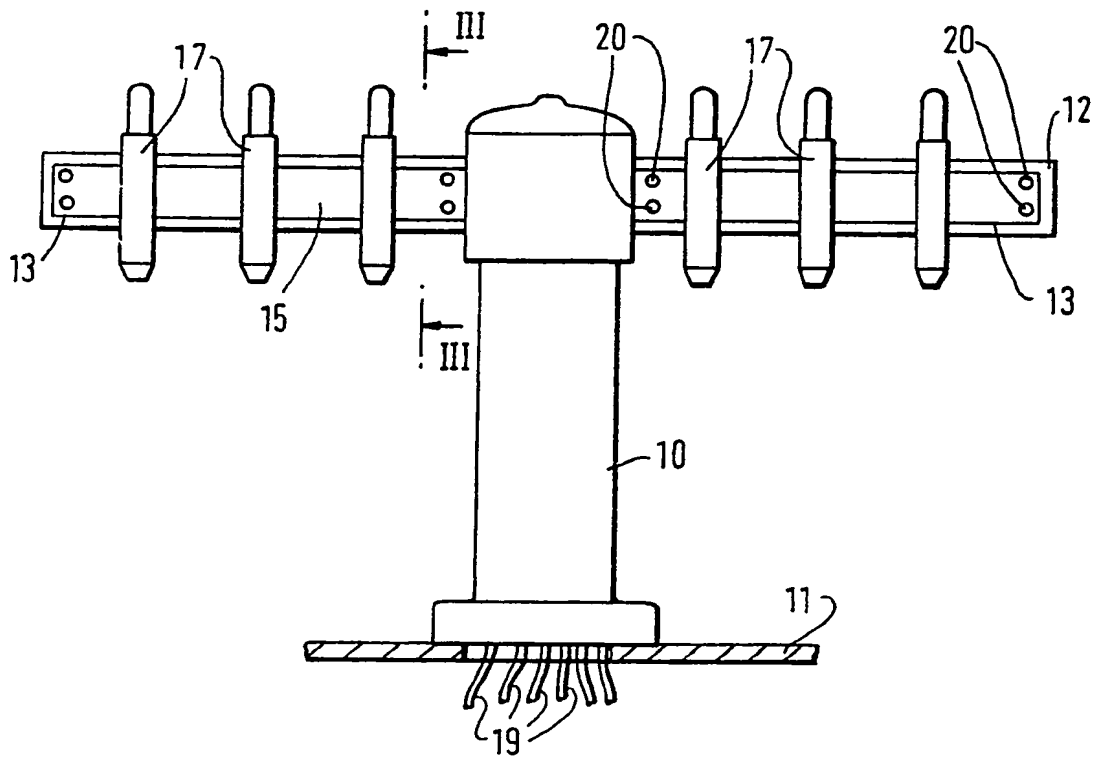
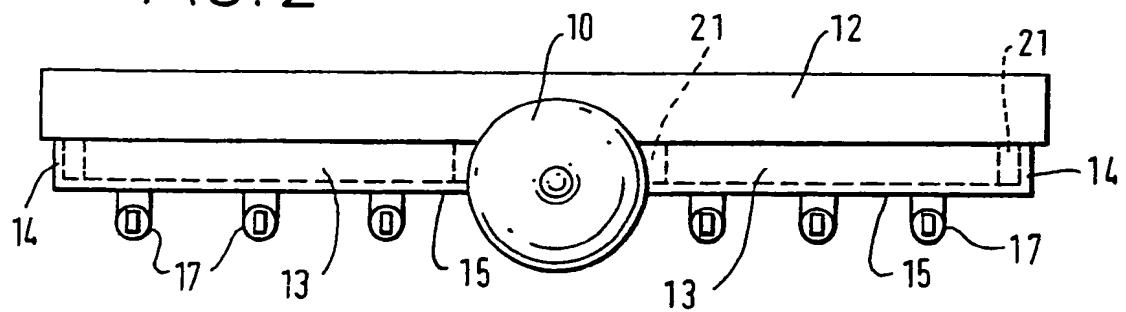
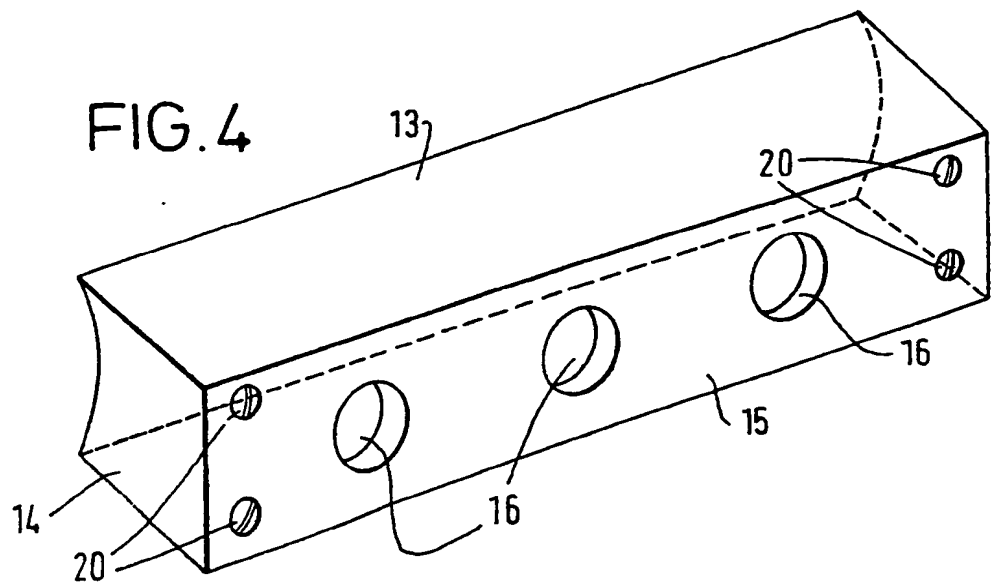
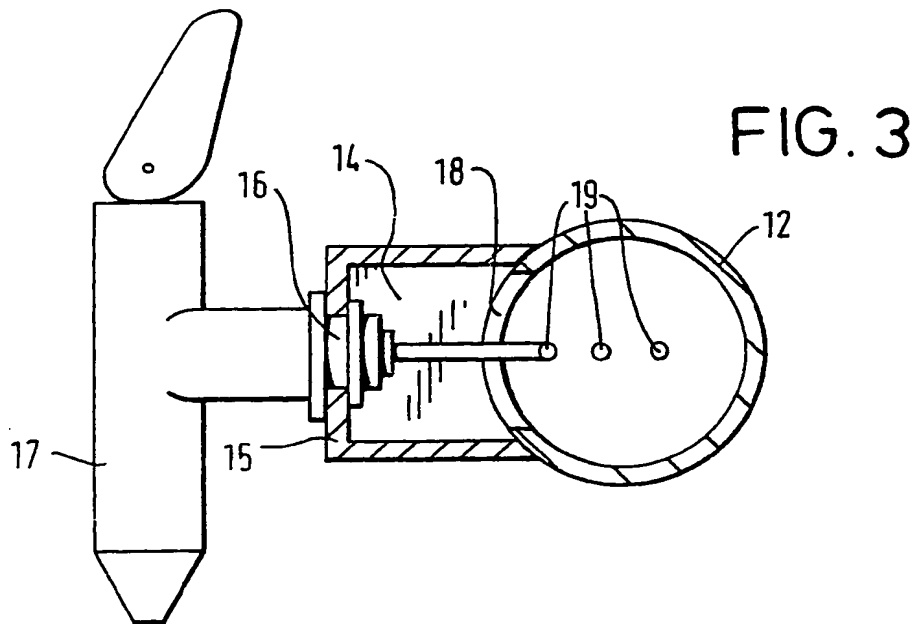


FIG. 2





BEVERAGE DISPENSING FONT WITH
DETACHABLE TAP MOUNTING UNIT

This invention relates to a beverage dispensing font provided with a plurality of dispensing taps or valves.

5 Beverage dispensing fonts are known which comprise a vertical hollow column or pillar on which is mounted a transversely extending elongate hollow arm provided with a plurality of dispensing taps or valves, each tap or valve being connected to a respective one of a plurality of tubes which extend within the arm and which pass down the interior of the hollow column where they are connected to individual sources of pressurized liquid beverages. In 10 the known fonts each tap or valve is mounted on a respective boss which extends from the hollow arm and such bosses are welded, or brazed to the hollow arm. With such known fonts the assembly of the parts is difficult and time consuming and servicing of the font has similar 15 disadvantages.

According to the present invention there is provided a beverage dispensing font comprising a hollow column or pillar, a transversely extending elongate hollow support 20 arm mounted on the column or pillar, a substantially channel-section member detachably mounted on the support

arm, a plurality of dispensing taps or valve units mounted on the channel-section member, an aperture provided in said hollow support arm or said column or pillar and located so as to be in communication with the interior of the channel of said channel-section member, and tubes connected to each
5 of the dispensing taps or valve units and extending through said aperture into said support arm or into the column or pillar and along the interior of the column or pillar.

Such an arrangement avoids the need for the provision
10 of individual hoses and the assembly of the taps or valves and tubes is easier and by detaching the channel-section member ready access can be gained to the rear of the taps or valves and to the tubes.

The taps or valves may be manually operated or they
15 may be solenoid operated and they may be of the free-flow or metered flow type.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of an example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

20 Figure 1 is a diagrammatic front elevation of a beverage dispensing font embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the beverage dispensing font;

25 Figure 3 is a cross-section on a larger scale taken along the line III-III indicated on Figure 1; and

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a channel-section member which is detachably mounted on the

support arm.

The liquid beverage dispensing font comprises a hollow column or pillar 10 which in use of the font is mounted vertically on a bar counter 11. Fixed to the upper end portion of the column or pillar 10 is a transversely extending hollow support arm 12. At its junction with the column or pillar 10 the interior of the support arm 12 is in communication with the interior of the column or pillar 10 through co-operating openings, not shown.

Mounted on the support arm 12 are two channel-section members 13 which are each closed by an end wall 14 at their outer end. The channel-section members 13 have a front wall 15 provided with a plurality of spaced apart apertures 16 through which extend the shank portion of dispensing taps 17.

Provided in the hollow support arm 12 are apertures 18 which are located so as to be in communication with the interior of the channel of a channel-section member 13. The apertures 18 may be elongate and extend longitudinally of the arm 12.

The apertures 18 may be provided in the column or pillar 10 instead of in the support arm 12 which in such a case may be solid.

A tube 19 is connected to the end of the shank portion of each dispensing tap 17 and each tube 19 extends through an aperture 18 into the support arm 12 and through the co-operating openings (not shown) in the support arm 12 and

column or pillar 10 and then extends down the interior of the column or pillar 10 and the tubes 19 are connected to individual sources of pressurized liquid beverage. Where the apertures 18 are provided in the column or pillar 10 then the tubes 19 extend along the channel-section members 13 and into the column or pillar 10.

The channel-section members 13 are secured by screws 20 to brackets 21 fixed to the support arm 12 or to the column or pillar 10.

10 The column or pillar 10, support arm 12 and channel-section members 13 are preferably formed of metal, such as brass, copper, stainless steel or aluminium.

With such a construction the taps 17 can be easily mounted on the channel-section members 13 prior to the members 13 being mounted on the support arm 12 and the connections of the respective tubes 19 can be easily made after the taps 17 have been mounted on the channel-section members 13. Thus, assembly is much easier and simpler than that of known beverage dispensing fonts. After installation the servicing of the font can be easily carried out by simply detaching the channel-section members 13 from the support arm 12 to gain ready access to the tube connections and tubes 19 and the tap mountings.

25 The taps 17 are preferably manually operable but they may comprise solenoid-operated valve devices and in such an arrangement the solenoids and electrical wiring can be housed in the channel of the channel-section members 13.

The column or pillar 10 and the support arm 12 are shown as being circular in cross-section but they can have any other desired cross-sectional shape. The channel-section members are shown as being substantially rectangular in cross-section but again they may have any other desired cross-sectional shape.

CLAIMS

1. A beverage dispensing font comprising a hollow column or pillar, a transversely extending elongate hollow support arm mounted on the column or pillar, a substantially channel-section member detachably mounted on the support arm, a plurality of dispensing taps or valve units mounted on the channel-section member, one or more apertures provided in said hollow support arm or said column or pillar and located so as to be in communication with the interior of the channel of said channel-section member, and a respective tube connected to each of the dispensing taps or valve units and extending through an aperture of said one or more apertures into said support arm or into the column or pillar and down the interior of the column or pillar.

2. A font as claimed in claim 1 in which the arm is hollow and a plurality of said apertures is provided in the hollow support arm, the interior of the column or pillar communicating with the interior of the arm through an opening, and the tubes extending through the opening.

3. A font as claimed in claim 2 in which the apertures are elongated in the longitudinal direction of the arm.

4. A font as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 in which the outer end of the channel-section member is closed by an end wall.

5. A font as claimed in any of the preceding claims in which there are two such arms, and respective substantially channel-section members are independently detachably mounted on the respective arms.

6. A beverage dispensing font substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Patents Act 1977

**Examiner's report to the Comptroller under
Section 17 (The Search Report)**

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Relevant Technical fields

(i) UK CI (Edition K) B8N, NAB, NB, ND

(ii) Int CI (Edition 5) B67D

Search Examiner

R F PHAROAH

Databases (see over)

(i) UK Patent Office

(ii)

Date of Search

19 DECEMBER 1991

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of claims 1-6

Category (see over)	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
A	GB A 2232144 (J W BURTON)	
A	GB A 2222815 (PORTER-LANCASTRIAN)	
A	GB 175073 (E W PROCTOR)	

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)

Categories of documents

X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.

Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.

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P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.

E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.

&: Member of the same patent family, corresponding document.

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